



# A standard for certifying Australian pasturefed cattle

## Pasturefed Cattle Assurance System (PCAS)

The Pasturefed Cattle Assurance System, or PCAS for short, is an assurance program that enables the industry to prove claims relating to pasturefed or grassfed production methods.

Underpinning PCAS are the PCAS Standards which govern the on-farm feed requirements and traceability of the cattle, as well as pre-slaughter handling practices which influence eating quality.

**Certified Pasturefed**  
**+HGP-free**  
**+Antibiotic-free**

The PCAS Standards also include two optional modules to support claims relating to the freedom from antibiotics and hormonal growth promotants.

## Certifying label claims

PCAS allows producers to have their pasturefed or grassfed production methods certified so that claims can be made in the marketplace. Certification is based on compliance with the PCAS Standards, which requires that all eligible cattle:

- Have been fed only pasture their entire life.
- Have not been confined for the purposes of intensive feeding for production.
- Are fully traceable for their entire life via NLIS.

When consigned to slaughter, the PCAS Standards also require conformance with pre-slaughter handling practices under Meat Standards Australia.

Two optional modules mean that eligible cattle can also be certified as being:

- Free from hormonal growth promotants; and/or
- Free from antibiotics.

## Third-party verification

Compliance with the PCAS Standards is ensured through a quality assurance process that requires on-farm practices and records to be verified with third-party on-site audits.

Producers that comply with the PCAS Standards and successfully pass an on-site audit are eligible to claim their product is "Certified Pasturefed" and use the Certified Pasturefed suite of certification marks.

## Become Certified Pasturefed

A comprehensive website provides further information including the PCAS Standards, a Producer Guide and templates to help with record keeping:

[www.certifiedpasturefed.com.au](http://www.certifiedpasturefed.com.au)



Producers seeking certification should visit [www.certifiedpasturefed.com.au](http://www.certifiedpasturefed.com.au) and:

1. Complete the online self-audit to determine their ability to comply with the PCAS Standards.
2. Complete the registration form and pay the application fee online.
3. Arrange an on-site audit to finish the process and become Certified Pasturefed.

